

October 3, 1940

Thank you for your invitation to visit Whitesbog this fall. I am going to try hard to do so; it seems quite hopeful that I may be able to get away soon after the middle of the month.

I think I can make the trip in one day and have the cuttings well packed so that there will not be any chance of their drying out. What do you think of putting the cuttings in water as soon as they are cut? I do this with cuttings of other plants and we have better results than when they are not put in water.

Wilfred Wheeler

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October 8, 1940

I have never made any study of the effect of soaking cutting material in water, but I should think it would be a great advantage.

Elizabeth C. White

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October 24, 1940

I spent a very interesting time at the Boyce Thompson Institute where I learned so much about holly propagation that I am optimistic about the future of this wonderful plant. Dr. Zimmerman has a plant of I. aquifolium which has withstood the lowest temperatures of the past ten years on his place without protection; the lowest temperature recorded was 24° below zero and there was no killing. This seemed extraordinary to me. A plant of I. cornuta, which is fruiting heavily, has been outdoors for the past eight years; I have never seen a better fruiting cornuta than this plant, not even in Georgia. There are some very interesting trees at the Institute, old ones - fifteen years old - and all have endured temperatures as low as 24° below zero without the slightest injury. One tree in particular, which came from Cape Cod, is much like

Wilson #2, but not of such good color. If you were to write Dr. Zimmerman, I believe he would send you cuttings of this tree.

I was much impressed with the annual growth on their young trees. I saw four-year-old trees from cuttings in 1936; they are now four feet, six inches high, with apparently no severe forcing to make them soft. Their winters are much more severe than ours.

They use "Rootone" on all cuttings; you know that Boyce Thompson Institute invented the process.

We had such a splendid time with you, enjoyed every minute of our visit. I was impressed with the Griscom tree, and shall write you more about this and about the food formula.

Wilfred Wheeler

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November 6, 1940

At the fall exhibition in Boston this week, I had a display of hollies. It attracted much attention. I had collected many native types and had asked friends in the South to send me types so that they could be compared with the local ones. This was the first time that such an exhibit had been made in the Boston show. I hope that it will stimulate the planting of holly and call attention to its possibilities.

Today, when I was scouting in the woods for holly, I came across some very interesting trees. The Lawrence (named for the owner of the land) #1 is a very old tree but has been sadly cut so that only a part of it is alive. However, it is full of fruit as this branch indicates. No. 2 is a very beautiful tree, standing alone in full sun, which probably accounts for the light foliage; but the fruit seems good and its size fair. Other trees had shaded #1 quite a lot, and this may account for its darker color. I believe that all these trees would bear larger fruit if fed properly.